

0856

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785020

ACC

10000/120/4947

TRG./26/4

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10000/120/4947

TRG./26/4

SCHOOL TRG. ENGRS

JAN. 1946 - NOV. 1946

5056
5074

26

TRANSLATION

From: Mil. Terr. Command, Udine
To : Engr Inspectorate, Rome
MMIA (for information)

Ref: 01/15596

Date: 23/11/46

Subject: Instructions on Bailey bridges. -

Ref. to letter 01/7906 ord. dated 11/11/46 from your Inspectorate, we would inform you that LT. VALLE Arturo of the 5th Signal Coy (who has experience of Bailey equipment, as he comes from the Engrs School of Civitavecchia) has been placed at the disposal of the Civil Engrs of Udine, for the instruction mentioned above. -

We would point out also that, further to agreements made with the Civil Engrs Office, the a/m officer will remain at its disposal for all the explanations that the office may require. -

sgd. Gambuzza
Gen.

5074

U/E

TRG M. M. I. A.
File : T. G. 126/4
Date: 2/12/46

TO SEE
GSDH TRG
CSO TRG
GSDH TRG
BGS
GSDH (SD)

(19)

Subject:- Tour report of S.O.R.E. M.M.I.A.

Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.
 (M.M.I.A.)
 RE 7
1 October 46.

G (TRG)

1 Herewith 1 copy/ies of report on tour carried out by
 Major O'Ferrall R.E. accompanied by Major L.A. Celabrini (Liason Offr.)
 between the 3rd Sept. and the 18th Sept. 1946.

J.G.O'Ferrall
 J.G.O'FERRALL, Major
 S.O.R.E.
 M.M.I.A.

5073

TOC-1
GRO-1
GS-1
GS-2
GS-3
GS-4
GS-5
GS-6
GS-7
GS-8
GS-9
GS-10

TRG M.M.I.A.
File: TRG 26/4
Date: 1.10.46

19

ENGINEER BRANCH
A.F.H.Q.
C. M. F.

SUBJECT: Training Italian Engrs

TO : Land Forces Sub Commission (AC)
(LMIA)

ENG/815/Ops

10 Jul 46

Further to this branch letter ENG/815/Ops of
27 Jun - copy to you.

1. In reply to para 2 of above quoted letter 13 Corps have stated that, owing to considerable operational commitments and the lack of instructors, they will be unable to train complete Italian Sub units this summer.
2. The matter will however be reconsidered if training facilities with 13 Corps improve.
3. It is suggested that the officers and men already trained might be used as instructors, using the equipment handed over to the Italians.

RECEIVED
File: ENG/26/+
Date: 12/7.

For the Chief Engineer:

J.B.S. HARRIS,
Captain R.E.,
SO III (Ops & Trg).

5071

TO SEE
OSO 1
OSO 2 (Trg)
OSO 3 (Ops)

RECEIVED 11 JUL 1946
7768

16

RETA

9

B

AFHQ

TRG/165

UNCLASSIFIED

FOR US (.) SUBJECT IS TRAINING ITALIAN RECONNAISSANCE (.) YOUR
 SIGNAL OFFICER RECEIVED 9 JULY (.) UNABLE TO HAVE SIGNATURE AT
 1200H FOR SUGGESTED DATES (.) WILL SIGNATURE BEING FORWARDED
 OR WAIT LATER DATES FOR SIGNATURE

TRG M. M. I. A.
File : TRG/ 26/4
Date: 12/9/7

5072

REXITE

G (TRG)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

091030

K 72540

29 JUN 1946

ENGINEER BRANCH

A. F. H. Q.

C. E. F.

SECRET

14

TRG.

SUBJECT : Training Italian Engineers

RIG/815/083

TO : G2 13 Corps (Main)

27 Jun 46

COPY TO : Land Forces Sub Com (MIA) —
C (Trg)

See 19

Further to this office letter RIG/815/083 of 24 May 46.

1. Will you confirm that you are willing to take a further 2 Officers and 4 NCOs from the Italian Engineers to train with 13 Corps Tpa RE and that their training period is 3 Jul to 23 Jul.
2. In your letter 544/1/0(0) of 9 Mar 46 you state that you would be willing to undertake the training of complete Italian Sub Units towards the end of Jul ~~or~~ beginning of Aug. You are requested to give this matter your further consideration and forward to this Hq your proposals for date of commencement, site, and approx numbers you are prepared to train.

For the Chief Engineer:

TRG M. M. I. A.
10/26/4
1/1/4

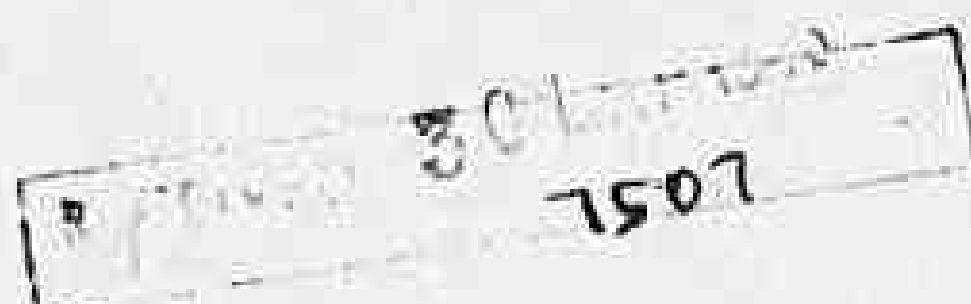
1/1/4
1/1/4

C. Store.

C. B. HOUSE,
Major, R.E.,
SO II (Ops).

5069

291203



ENGINEER BRANCH
A. F. H. Q.
C. M. F.

ENG/815/OPS

29 May 46

SUBJECT : Training - Italian Engineers.

TO : Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. —
(MMA).

Copy to : CE 13 Corps (Main)
G (Trg)

Further to our ENG/815/OPS of 30 Apr 46.

1. CE 13 Corps has agreed to a further attachment of 2 Officers and 4 NCOs from the Italian Engineers to British Units undergoing Floating Bailey Training at S. Dona for period 9 Jun - 8 Jul.
2. Will you please make the necessary arrangements for the replacement of the present six trainees on 8 Jun.
3. CE 13 Corps has confirmed that the present arrangements are satisfactory.

For the Chief Engineer:

RG M. M. I.
File : ENG/20/4
Date : 2/50/5.

[Signature]
CE. HOUSE,
Major, R.E.,
SO II (OPS).

30/5/46
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301400

RGS

TRG/26/4.

FV⑪

Report on the disturbance
at Air Hareecchia
will you pass on to
those who you think should
see the report.

11/11

11/11/11

g.o.c.

Col. AQ WP

→ gso II(I) let

AAG. 14/6 14/5

N/A

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11/11/11

TRANSLATION

RG M.M.I.A.

PG 126/4

R/14/5.

FROM: H.Q. Central Military Schools. REF: 55

TO: S.M.R.S.

DATE: 8 May 46.

SUBJECT:- Mutiny in the Engineer
Artisan School (Civitavecchia).

On Saturday the 4th inst, at about 1940 hrs, the garrison H.Q. of Civitavecchia was notified that a body of recruits from the Artisan School had left the Aurelia Barracks (located at Km 78 on the Via Aurelia) and was proceeding towards Civitavecchia in protest against bad messing and other presumed bad conditions.

Gen Mattioli, commanding Civitavecchia garrison, immediately set out to meet the e/m troops, whom he reached at about Km 3 1/2 outside of Civitavecchia, marching in column in a fair state of order and having all their kit with them.

From the first contacts made with the troops (approx 500, equal to about 1/2 of those who arrived recently) Gen Mattioli learnt that the main reasons for discontent were the following:

- they were billeted in a malarial area and in a barracks which was Km 6 from the centre of Civitavecchia, and therefore asked to be transferred to the "Duce d'Aosta" Barracks of the Artillery School;
- contrary to the promises made to them at their original C.A.R.s, they had been sent away from the respective regions to which they belonged;
- their messing was bad, or rather, not as good as that previously received at their original C.A.R.s;
- their sanitary conditions were bad: room living space was very restricted, there is very little water, the blankets are dirty and full of insects.

To the energetic requests of Gen Mattioli that they return to barracks and not blacken themselves with the crime of desertion, all replied that they had no intention of going home but, rather, to ^{the} original C.A.R.s were they had been well accommodated.

Gen Mattioli was assisted at this first intervention by some officers of the Artisan School, by Lt Cole Silvestri and Autilio in particular. Col De Matteis, C.O. the school, was not present however, since he had gone to Bracciano where his family is still resident.

Shortly afterwards a CC.RR patrol arrived on the scene, which was much too small to confront the body of troops which in the meanwhile had resumed its march towards Civitavecchia station, General Mattioli then gave orders for the station to be picketed immediately by CC.RR and troops of the Artillery School, at the same

5066

time arranging for the sending of the largest possible number of vehicles to the courtyard of the station and speaking to the recruits for the 2nd time to induce them to return to barracks.

On the arrival of the column at Civitavecchia station, Gen Mattioli for the 2nd time requested the troops to refrain from their proposals, pointing out to them the state of misery of the whole country, quoting as an example the widespread destruction at Civitavecchia, and adding that if inconveniences really were verified, everything possible would be done to eliminate them and in particular he, personally, would devote his attention to their living conditions, endeavouring to improve the messing and proposing to the higher authorities an eventual better accommodation in new billets.

Meanwhile the first vehicles arrived and Gen Mattioli then exhorted the troops to get on to them immediately in order to return to barracks where they would be issued with another meal to supplement the one already issued that afternoon which had not been very good.

The troops, who had collected around Gen Mattioli in a fairly disciplined manner, being persuaded that the higher authorities would be approached with regard to their transfer to the "Duca d'Aosta" barracks, began to show signs of understanding and to get on the vehicles which immediately commenced to return to barracks, this being completed at about 2300 hrs.

From numerous contacts with the troops, Gen Mattioli learnt that the main real reason for discontent, apart from the occasional messing complaint, was the isolation of the barracks and the feeling of exposure to the danger of malaria, both because of the numerous posters put up in the area by the Allies, and because of the compulsory taking of a quinine tablet at breakfast every morning.

Other reasons for occasional discontent are as follows:

- the restrictions of liberty imposed on the troops of No 6 Coy because of the breaking out of two cases of measles;
- the impossibility, in view of the isolation of the barracks, of associating with women.

On the transport back to barracks being completed, Gen Mattioli proceeded to the barracks to attend the issue of the meal, immediately afterwards interviewing the officers, Col De Matteis, who in the meanwhile had returned to barracks, being present.

Gen Mattioli exhorted all the officers to use the maximum **5065** and understanding in dealing with the recruits - obviously feeling badly - requesting them to use all the means available to them to ensure that the inconveniences complained of were eliminated.

Col De Matteis and the other officers being interrogated as to whether symptoms of discontent had been noted during the preceding

days, they replied that some recruits actually had complained about messing and malaria but that the officers had carried out work of persuasion to discredit presumed dangers.

All the said officers then agreed that the possibility could be excluded of the incident having been prearranged by specific political action. It is significant however that as the column left the barracks a car drove along the Via Aurelia throwing out large numbers of leaflets of a subversive nature.

On my being informed of what had occurred at the Aurelia barracks, I notified the Rome Comiliter, the Engineer Inspectorate and the S.M.-E., that I should be proceeding to the spot to examine the situation, which, from information afterwards received from Gen Mattioli and the CO.RR. appeared to be very serious in so far as the mutinous troops, even though having complied with Gen Mattioli's request that they return to barracks, had set a time limit of three days for the obtaining of their transfer to the "Dac D'Aosta" barracks: in the event of the contrary they would put into action their proposal of returning to their original C.A.R.s.

This particular was also confirmed to me yesterday morning by the O.C. Civitavecchia CO.RR. at the Civitavecchia garrison H.Q., together with his serious worries as to the likelihood of a repetition of the attempt at desertion.

I afterwards conferred with Col De Matteis in the presence of Gen Mattioli, and after inspecting the barracks I had all the officers N.C.O.s and men of the school paraded and spoke to them very clearly with regard to the inconveniences which had caused the incident (malaria, preparation of meals, billets) carefully pointing out the seriousness of their action and the most serious consequences which could be suffered by all if there were any repetitions.

The parade being dismissed, I interviewed a large number of men who wished to point out to me personally their circumstances, giving immediate instructions in all matters which, as Commandant, I could resolve immediately.

On the whole the troops showed no signs of indiscipline during my visit.

I afterwards completed my tour of inspection of the barracks and then proceeded to the "Sabile" barracks to examine the possibility of accommodating a part of the recruits in this barracks also, thus avoiding an excessive crowding of the Aurelia barracks.

After having made a careful examination I ordered that the last recruits coming from the C.A.R.s of Brescia and Cuneo, who should have arrived in the evening, should be accommodated in these barracks, which, later on (i.e. after the works in course are completed), would also have to accommodate another of the coys at present in the Aurelia barracks which would thus be relieved of another 250 men and permit of better accommodation for the troops remaining there.

4

Having thus formed a precise opinion of the prevailing circumstances and the responsibilities, I am convinced of the necessity for the immediate removal from the school of Col De Matteis, who undoubtedly failed to exercise any action of command over his men and to me appeared to be tired, unreliable, of shaken nerves and no longer in a condition to hold the command of the school at such a delicate moment.

I therefore ordered that Col De Matteis should hand over his command to Lt Col Silvestri (the senior of the Lt Cols at the school) who in my opinion can hold the command whilst awaiting the posting of another Col possessing all the necessary qualifications.

I am also convinced of the necessity of replacing Lt Col Eliscaro, chief of the training office, whom I noted as being of exactly the same type as Col De Matteis in continually raising difficulties of all kinds without however taking any diligent action to overcome them with the energy and initiative that the situation of the moment required; I have ordered that this officer be temporarily replaced by Maj Engineers Bardi at present serving with the training office of the Central Schools H.Q. - whilst awaiting the posting of another officer of proven capabilities.

Some causes of discontent on the part of the recruits regarding accommodation and messing are the consequence of the lack of interest and ~~deficiency~~ in ~~the~~ disciplinary command of the Commandant of the school, who not being present in person at such a delicate moment as that of the arrival of the recruits, has seriously failed in his principal duties as Commandant.

For this reason, in addition to his removal, he will be punished with a severe disciplinary punishment by me after I have clarified other particulars regarding his deficient action of command under the circumstances which supplied the reason for the attempt at desertion on the part of the recruits.

The incomplete preparation of the premises due to the interruption of the works for the fitting out of the barracks for more than a month due to the fault of the Ministry of War which did not make timely provision of the necessary funds, influenced the state of mind of the recruits who were already depressed because of their removal from the regional C.A.R.s.

I am firmly convinced however that, more than the a/m. ~~ca~~ **5063** the serious collective crime was caused by the subversive propaganda spread like poison by elements which came with the recruits and which, following an obviously ~~following~~ pre-established and well prepared plan of their's, neglect no opportunity to cause harm to the disciplinary cohesion of the units in order to render them easily liable to collapse.

I have adopted measures for the tracing of ^{and} ~~the~~ elements, who according to many officers and N.C.O.s are working craftily with

5

great ability.

In the next few days I shall again pay particular attention to the Artisan School; I consider however that after the immediate and energetic action taken by Gen Mattioli and the contact made by me with all the troops of the school yesterday morning, during which I repeatedly insisted on the necessity of firm discipline on the part of all in this particular period through which the country is going, the likelihood of incidents of the type which occurred on Saturday the 4th inst is to be excluded.

sgt. RONCO
Gen.

O. Danin Sgt.

- 5062

0871

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

LROF V LAEE NR 85

T MSNC

FROM AFHQ 321514E

TO LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION (CMMA) /

BT

C40030

UNCLASSIFIED FROM RE AFHQ CMF (.) SUBJECT IS TRAINING OF ITALIAN
ENGINEERS (.) WARNING ORDER (.) 2 OFFERS 4 NCOS TO REPORT 13 CORPS
BRIDGING CAMP 5 MAY (.) LETTER FOLLOWS GIVING DETAILS

BT

SENT NR 85 LM B K

26/4
R/1/5.

011000



107

9925

RECEIVED
1836
1 MAY 1946

Some Information
He will have 6 M2
what this is too short
notice. Will make
other arrangements.
CE 11

5061

30
30
30

2025

Barley Br eqpt required by the Italian Eng School
for Trg. ~~10~~ 8
9

56. Eng as
One Barley pl. } for Trg in floating bridging
One Barley Pantom pl.

One Barley pl } for Br. Trg at the recruit school.

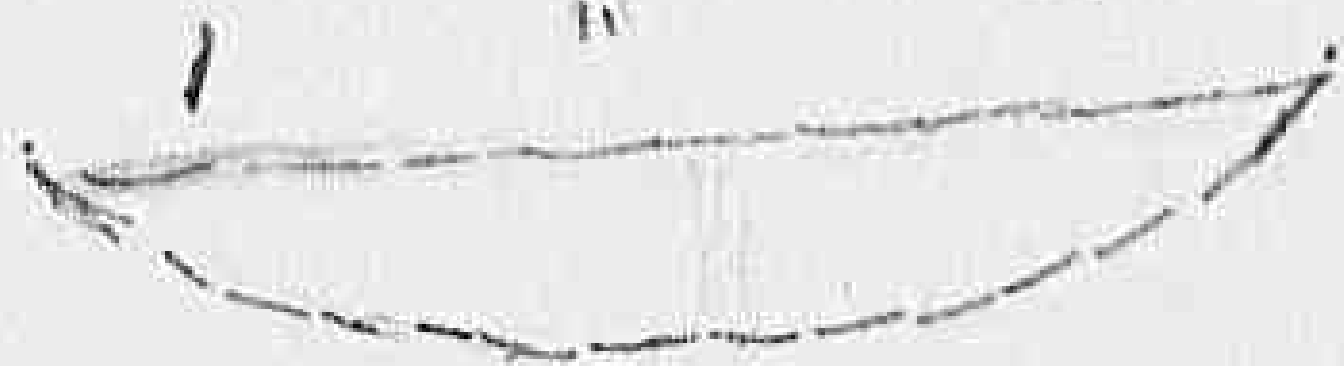
Two Barley Secs } for the Divisions without Ed PK Coys.

This takes into account eqpt now held.
(The school is not at the moment ready
to receive any floating eqpt as a suitable
Trg ground has still to be prepared
in a new location).

2 1/2 BARLEY P.L.S.
P.L.S.

R.D. Spence
Maj. 5059

1 Feb



SUBJECT : Training Engineers.

LAND FORCE SUB-COM, A.C. (MMA)

TRG/26/4

25 April 46

TO : Ministry of War.

Ref your 2719/R/1 of 21 April 46.

1. The D.4. Op and Maintenance course for Italian Engineer Personnel will be run as follows :-

Type of Course. - Operation and Maintenance of D.4 Tractors.
 Duration - 3 Weeks.
 No of Students. - 2 Officers & OR.
 Date of Commencement - 1 May 46
 Location - 135 ME Coy RE TORRE ANNUNCIATA. (N 3441)
 (located on NAPLES - PORTOFINO Autostrada
 2 miles beyond TORRE ANNUNCIATA.)

2. Students will report to the Coy Office at 0900 hrs with necessary equipment such as overalls, notebooks, etc.,.

TRG M. M. I.
File : TR/26/4
Date: TR/25/4

Major-General
 M. M. I. A.

Internal Distribution

S. S. E. A.

5060

SUBJECT : Training Engineers.

LAND FORCES SUB-COM, A.C. (ZMIA)

TRG/26/4

25 April 46

TO : M.F.H.Q.
Engineer Branch.

REF your TRG/815 OPS of 20 April 46.

1. Ministry of War Italian Army have been informed of the contents of para 1 and 2.

2. The students will be attached to 110 Engineer Service Coy
NAFIES. and transport has been arranged to convey them to and from 135
ME Coy HQ Italy.

TRG M.M.1
File : TRG/26/4
Date : R/25/4

Major-General
M. M. A.

Copy to : S.O.R.A.

JPC/pt

3038
3157

ENGINEER BRANCH

A.F.H Q.

C. M F.

SUBJECT : Training Engineers.

ENG/815/OPS.

TO : MMIA

Copy to : G (TRG)
CE 3 District
135 ME Coy RE.

20 April 46.

1. It is now confirmed that the D4 Op & Maint Course for Italian Engineer personnel will be run as scheduled. Details are as follows :-

Type of Course	-	Operation and maintenance of D4 Tractors
Duration	-	3 Weeks
No of Students	-	2 Officers 8 OR
Date commencement	-	1 May 46.
Location	-	135 ME Coy RE. Torre Annuciata (N3441)

(Located on Naples - Pompeii Autostrada two miles beyond Torre Annuciata).

2. Students will report at 0900hrs to the Coy Office with necessary equipment such as overalls, notebooks, etc. .

3. Please inform this HQ of name and location of Italian Unit with whom students will be billeted.

For the Chief Engineer.

PRG M.M.I.A.
File 126/4
2/26/4.

RE
GSO
GSO
GSO

(Signed) C.V. HOUSE.
Captain R.E.
SO III (TRG)

5057

Copy passed to RE 2/26/4

SUBJECT: Training Posters

G (Training)
GHQ CEF

Tel: FREEDON 551

TRG/112

24 Jan 46

25 JAN 1946

HQ British Troops AUSTRIA
HQ 13 Corps
HQ Land Forces GREECE
Q 2 District
HQ 3 District
BMA GREECE
Land Forces Sub Comm AC (AFIA)

Copy to: RM GHQ

1. A further edition of the GS Poster series entitled 'Illustrated Training Portfolio (All Arms) - Mines' is being produced.

2. This will consist of a series of diagrams illustrating the basic working principles of igniters excluding those igniters working on Radio Magnetic or Acoustic principles, and will be designed for use as wall charts.

3. The series shows the general principle in simple form and will not be outdated by any change in the existing type of mines as long as the same initiating methods are used.

4. Advance copies of these posters are not being forwarded.

5. Addressees are requested to forward their requirements to this Headquarters by 7 Feb 46. A separate return has been called for from Engineer Units.

A.D. WARD,
Maj Gen,
CGS.

5056

0876

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Q 2 District
HQ 3 District
BRI GREECE
Land Forces Sub Comm AC (LHIA)

Copy to: HQ GHQ

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A.D. WARD,
Maj Gen,
CGS.

5056

C 1501	
Chal	D
26/4	26
46	46

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